

Minutes of the OS&R Committee Meeting
Monday, Oct 19 2015, at 7:30 PM
Town Hall Annex

Members in attendance: Stephanie Cunningham (SC), Lawrence Neal (LN), Ted Tarr (TT), Peter Van Demark (PV)

Members absent: None

Guest in attendance:
None

730PM Meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by LAN seconded by TT to approve the Aug 10, 2015 minutes as amended. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

Open Discussion:
None

Discussion on Land Protection:

General discussion about the current activities. This includes Essex County Green Belt's (ECGA) work with the land owner to gain a Conservation Restriction on several acres of land along Farm way and their continued efforts to outline an agreement with land owner to purchase Woodland Acres.

The DPW and the Town Administrators office is working with a land owner to purchase watershed land. Negotiations seem near agreement with the town finances in place. Also, Cape Ann Trails is working with the ConCom to add kiosk with trail maps for their land on Thomas Way at Waring field and in the Pine Pit parking area at the head of the quarry rail way. There is some concern about them being vandalized but they should proceed as planned.

Presentation on the "Importance and value of Protecting Open Space":

ConCom has started to outline the agenda. If possible, they would like to have Mass Audubon present the main presentation outlining the title. ECGA will present their recent work and their projects in the works. ConCom will present what protected open space means to the town, its residence and visitors. ConCom will also highlight recent additions and they will develop a list of all uses of Open Space, organize related hand outs and take alaways, along with invitation list of other possible speakers and invitees. General discussion by OSRC members who are in support of this and would like to see the BOS rep involved with presentation. Effort being made to do this all before the end of year.

OSR Plan Review:

The high interest parcel list has been reviewed. One change offered on Woodland acres is to add value "Historic" as it directly borders about 600' of Quarry railway that brought cut granite to Pigeon Cove Harbor. Also, add value "Connects to" other protected land as it is adjacent to ConCom land.

LN distributed a "Consideration of attributes to make revised 2016 Short List Parcels of Interest". Focus would be to establish private parcels of high interest and those connected to existing protected land and contain the most heavily used, highest quality trails passing across them. Next meeting will try and connect this approach with Trail/parcel maps done by PV a few years ago. Goal is to establish 5 – 10 targets for protection.

GIS and Trail Mapping:

Trial from "Kelley's Road" to transfer station flooded and still not found. LN spoke with a past heavy users family and they will mark trail best they can remember, so that it can be considered for reestablishing.

SC has tried to contact the Boxford Trail Association about grants and CPA funding used for trail clearing. She has not received a call back from that trail Association.

LN showed latest list of town Open Space listed on GIS. List was done by DPW IT and will distribute to committee.

Town Social Media Policy:

The town has established a social media policy. SC has agreed to be OSRC social media person.

Next Actions on OSR Plan:

Committee will try to establish trail quality and usage and add data to trail map.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics:

Next meeting: 9 Nov 2015 Continue work towards a short list of Private parcels for protection, Meeting at Town Hall Annex

Motion to Adjourn: 9:41PM PV motioned to adjourn, TT seconded. Vote passed 4/0

These minutes prepared by LN